

April 16, 1991

LB 701, 714

voting yes. Senator Smith voting yes.

SPEAKER BAACK: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of LB 701, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 701 advances. Next item, LB 714. I will raise the call, but I sure would encourage my colleagues to stay close to the Chamber so we can conduct business. And any of my colleagues who are in their offices and haven't checked in, please do that soon.

CLERK: Mr. President, 714 was a bill introduced by Senator Beutler. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 23, referred to the Natural Resources Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments pending at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill has to do with recreational trails. Around the nation in 34 different states now they have very substantial trails programs, recreational trails programs for hiking, for biking, for horseback riding, for different kinds of family activities. And what this bill would do would basically make a small commitment on the part of the State of Nebraska to the concept of recreational trails. It basically follows the pattern of the Soil Conservation Fund in the sense that what we're doing here is creating a project fund and the project fund is administered by the Game and Parks Administration and basically it is, with the A bill, \$100,000 that is available to local political subdivisions, to NRDs, to cities, to counties, to private groups working in conjunction with public entities. They are funds available for their projects and the process would work simply by having individual entities with an interest in a particular project applying to the fund through the Game and Parks Commission for a certain amount of money for their particular trails project. This bill is not limited to old abandoned railroad right of ways. It would allow a project to include or to be in fact an abandoned railroad line, but it also would allow for projects that are not abandoned railroad lines. If there are other trails projects that do not involve abandoned railroad lines, this money would be available for those projects